

<b>Arnold Schwarzenegger</b> <i>California</i>	<b>Janet Napolitano</b> <i>Arizona</i>	<b>Sonny Perdue</b> <i>Georgia</i>	<b>Rick Perry</b> <i>Texas</i>	<b>Christine Gregoire</b> <i>Washington</i>
<b>Jeb Bush</b> <i>Florida</i>	<b>George Pataki</b> <i>New York</i>	<b>Thomas Vilsack</b> <i>Iowa</i>	<b>Tim Pawlenty</b> <i>Minnesota</i>	<b>Ted Kulongoski</b> <i>Oregon</i>
	<b>Bill Richardson</b> <i>New Mexico</i>	<b>Kenny Guinn</b> <i>Nevada</i>	<b>Rod Blagojevich</b> <i>Illinois</i>	<b>Jon Corzine</b> <i>New Jersey</i>

April 5, 2006

The Honorable Richard C. Shelby  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Shelby and Senator Mikulski:

As you prepare to markup the FY07 Commerce, Justice and Science appropriations bill, we write to express our continued support for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP). Specifically, we are requesting that you provide \$850 million for SCAAP in FY07, as authorized under the law. These funds are critical to states such as ours and needed to at least partially offset the costs our taxpayers are bearing as a result of the failure to control illegal entries along our international borders.

We appreciate Congress's action last year to reauthorize SCAAP as part of the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005. This reauthorization is an important statement on the broad, bipartisan support SCAAP enjoys in Congress. While Congress has provided help in maintaining this program, more help is needed. As Governors, we are well aware of the difficult choices that must be made in prioritizing funding. We want to reiterate our strong support for SCAAP and to assure you of the critical importance of this program. Each year, thousands of undocumented aliens who have committed crimes in our states are incarcerated in state or local facilities. SCAAP provides only a partial, but important, reimbursement for the cost to incarcerate these individuals.

We stand committed and ready to work with the federal government to protect our nation. However, until the federal government can achieve the goal of securing our borders, every effort should be made to help state and local governments cover a greater share of the considerable expense we incur to incarcerate undocumented criminal aliens.

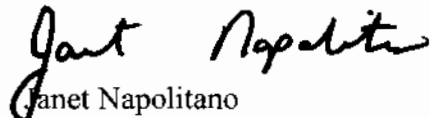
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The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski  
April 5, 2006  
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Thank you for your consideration of our request. Again, we appreciate your past commitment to SCAPP and look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure that this program remains a viable program for reimbursing state and local governments.

Sincerely,



Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor of California



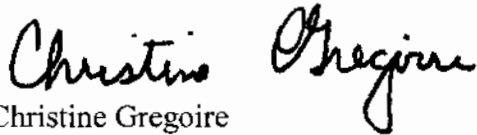
Janet Napolitano  
Governor of Arizona



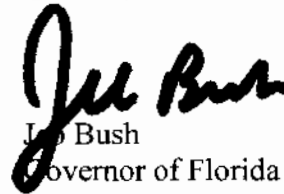
Sonny Perdue  
Governor of Georgia




Rick Perry  
Governor of Texas



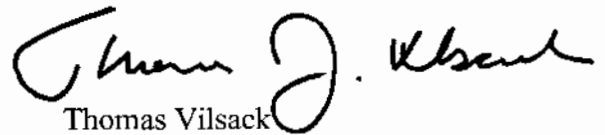
Christine Gregoire  
Governor of Washington



Jeb Bush  
Governor of Florida



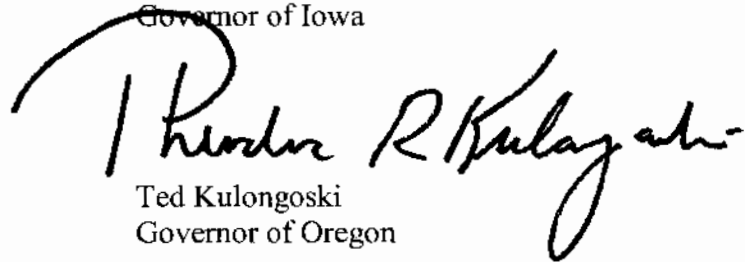
George Pataki  
Governor of New York



Thomas Vilsack  
Governor of Iowa




Tim Pawlenty  
Governor of Minnesota



Ted Kulongoski  
Governor of Oregon



Bill Richardson  
Governor of New Mexico

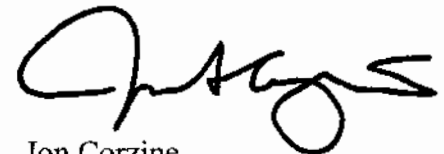


Kenny Guinn  
Governor of Nevada

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Rod Blagojevich  
Governor of Illinois



Jon Corzine  
Governor of New Jersey

cc: The Honorable Thad Cochran, Chairman  
The Honorable Robert Byrd, Ranking Member